

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

July 13, 2016

Certified Return Receipt 7013 2250 0000 2310 2514

Bruce Allen United States Gypsum Company 78 North State Street Sigurd, Utah 84657

Subject:

Directive to Amend Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations, United States

Gypsum Company, Jumbo-Jensen Mine, M/041/0008, Sevier County, Utah

Dear Mr. Allen:

In a letter dated May 27, 2015, United States Gypsum Company (USG) was directed to provide increased reclamation surety for the Jumbo-Jensen Mine, which was provided. Thank you for the additional surety. The Division has temporarily accepted this increased reclamation surety in the amount submitted, since reclamation evaluation inspections were at that time ongoing and reclamation cost estimates, maps, and plans were not up-to-date.

USG was also directed to amend the Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations (Notice) and the associated reclamation cost estimate, since they were both out of date and inconsistent with the requirements of R647-4. In 2015, the Division worked with the USG staff to inform USG of these requirements and answer questions, but USG has not yet submitted an amended Notice to the Division.

By December 15, 2016, USG is hereby directed to:

 Amend the Notice by providing replacement text and updated maps using the provided review comments, consistent with active and planned operations. Address the comments attached to the May 27, 2015 letter. The Division recommends using the Division's large mine Notice form. The Notice should be formatted to easily incorporate future modifications.

AND

2) Provide an updated reclamation cost estimate, consistent with the enclosed comments and the modified Notice, and using current, published heavy equipment costs, such as R.S. Means.



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Failure to update the Notice and reclamation cost estimate as required, or failure to stay within the permitted areas may result in enforcement action including associated fines.

USG has requested clarification about what the Division would require for evaluation of mine impacts and mitigation related to rare plants, consistent with R647-4-109.4. Some of these plants have been (or are being) considered for listing as threatened or endangered by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service.

Please provide a baseline vegetation study as an appendix to the amended Notice. The Division recommends that the field inventory identify the locations of Lost Creek (or threadleaf) buckwheat (*Eriogonum mitophyllum*), Arapein stickleaf (*Mentzelia argillosa*), Utah phacelia (*Phacelia utahensis*) and other uncommon species in areas where mining disturbance might occur within approximately the next ten years. Please especially note the presence of rare species on regraded or prelaw disturbances, discuss conclusions regarding mine impacts in undisturbed areas with mining potential consistent with Notice maps, and propose possible mitigation activities. Contact Robert Fitts with the Utah Natural Heritage Program at 801-538-4742 for specific information about these plant species.

Prior to approval of mining in future areas, the Division requires that cultural resources (archaeology) be taken into account, and the Division must receive concurrence with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concerning potential impacts to these resources. To avoid delays in the approval process, the Division recommends that USG provide a cultural resources survey from a licensed archaeologist for areas planned for mining within the next ten years. Contact the Division for more information.

Please contact Peter Brinton at 801-538-5258, or me at 801-538-5261 with questions about this letter. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Paul B Baker

Minerals Program Manager

PBB: pnb: eb

c: Robert Fitts, DWR (robertfitts@utah.gov)

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